

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on January 16, 2007, claims 1, 7-14, 16, 20-27, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cernocky in view of Bordon.

As amended, the method of independent claim 1 recites actuating a casing conveyed perforating in response to the communication of a wireless stimulus downhole in the well. The method includes downhole in the well, confirming firing of the perforating gun and in response to the confirmation of the firing, communicating another wireless stimulus from a transmitter, which is integrated with a casing string uphole to indicate the confirmation.

In the § 103 rejection of claim 1, the Examiner relies on Bordon to purportedly teach the communication of a stimulus uphole to confirm firing of a perforating gun. However, Bordon fails to teach the limitations of claim 1 as currently amended. In this manner, Bordon discloses a downhole pressure sensor 42, which senses pressure conditions, such as the pressure conditions during and after perforation. Bordon, 5:34-37. Bordon also discloses that from this information, a determination of whether charges have fired can be determined. Bordon, 5:37-39. However, Bordon does not disclose any mechanism that is located downhole in the well and confirms whether the perforating charges have been fired. Instead, in Bordon's system, the pressure signals may be analyzed at the surface of the well for purposes of making this determination.

Thus, the hypothetical combination of Cernocky and Bordon fails to teach or suggest all limitations of independent claim 1.

As amended, the system of independent claim 14 includes a circuit that is located downhole to confirm firing of a perforating gun and a transmitter, which is integrated with a casing string to, in response to the confirmation of the firing of the perforating gun, communicate another wireless stimulus uphole indicative of the confirmation. For at least the reason that neither Bordon nor Cernocky teaches or suggests a circuit, which is located downhole to confirm firing of a perforating gun, amended claim 14 overcomes the § 103 rejection.

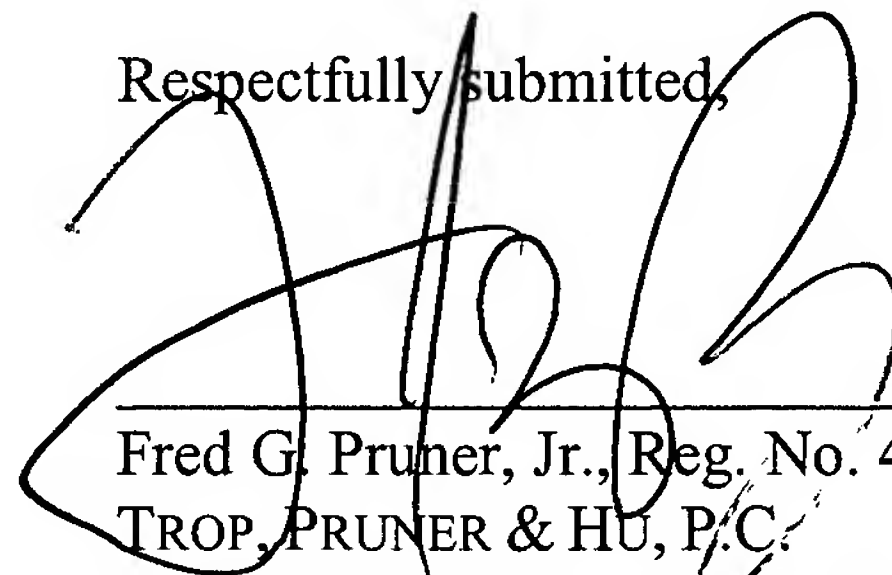
Similarly, the perforating gun of independent claim 27 has been amended to recite a circuit, which is located downhole near a perforating gun to confirm firing of perforating charges of the perforating gun. Thus, claim 27 overcomes the § 103 rejections for the reasons set forth above, as neither Cernocky nor Bordon teaches or suggests the claimed circuit.

Dependent claims 7-13, 16, 20-26, 29 and 30 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claims for the reasons that are set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the § 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0318US).

Respectfully submitted,



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